BEGINNING "THE MERMAIDS OF MELO STRAITS."
I LIKE THE JUNGLE, BUT IT'LL BE GOOD TO GET BACK HOME.

LATER~
WILL IT BE A ROUGH VOYAGE, CAPTAIN CRAG?
I THINK NOT-WE'RE TAKING THE SOUTHERN ROUTE.

THAT'LL TAKE US NEAR MELO STRAITS, EH?

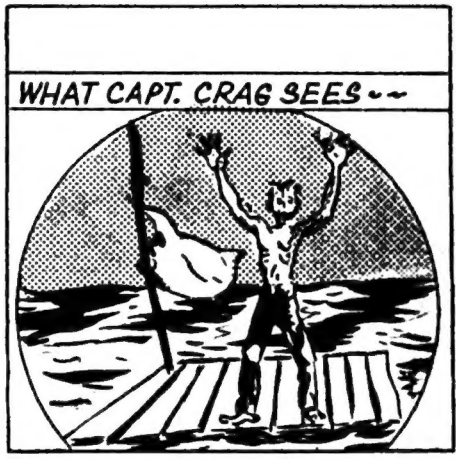
NO! NO! NOT MELO STRAITS! ALL DIE!
11-12

MELO STRAITS~ FULL OF BLACK MAGIC!
NONSENSE! NATIVE SUPERSTITION!

BUT THIS IS TRUE ~ SHIPS HAVE GONE IN THERE~ AND COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED!

SHIPS DISAPPEARED? BUT HOW?
NOT SURE~ IMAGINE THEY BROKE UP ON ROCKS~ NOTHING SUPER-NATURAL.

AHOY! OFF THE PORT BOW! LOOKS LIKE A RAFT! MAN ON IT.
11-13


WHAT CAPT. CRAG SEES ~~

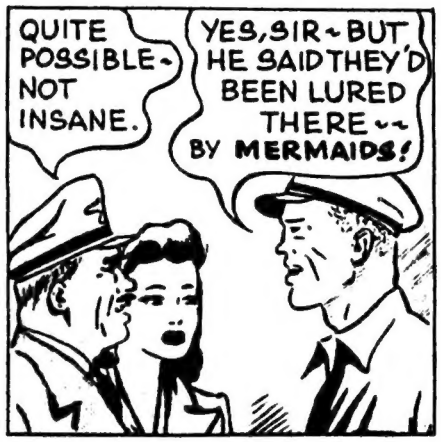
LOWER A BOAT~~ LIVELY, MR. THOMAS, TAKE TWO MEN. PICK UP THE POOR DEVIL.
AYE, SIR.

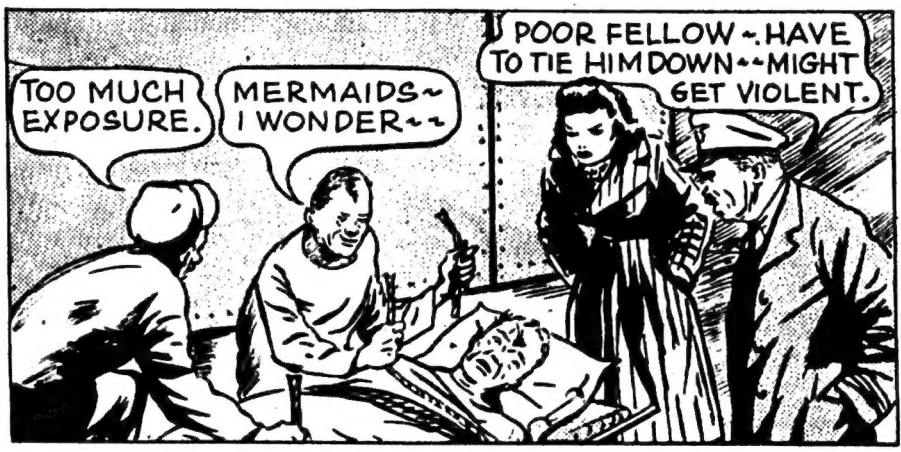
WHAT'S THIS?
11-14

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THE MATE STRUCK THAT POOR MAN?

YES, MR. THOMAS, EXPLANATION PLEASE!
HE SEEMED DELIRIOUS, SIR. I WAS AFRAID HE'D GET VIOLENT- UPSET THE BOAT.

CRAZY, EH? WHAT MADE YOU THINK SO?
HE TOLD ME HIS SHIP WAS WRECKED IN MELO STRAITS.
11-15


QUITE POSSIBLE- NOT INSANE.
YES, SIR- BUT HE SAID THEY'D BEEN LURED THERE-- BY MERMAIDS!


TOO MUCH EXPOSURE.
MERMAIDS- I WONDER--
POOR FELLOW-. HAVE TO TIE HIM DOWN--MIGHT GET VIOLENT.

WHERE AM I?
TAKE IT EASY. YOU'LL BE O.K. TELL ME ABOUT THE MERMAIDS.

"WE HEARD BEAUTIFUL MUSIC COMING ACROSS THE WATER- WE DREW NEARER- THEN WE SAW 'EM- REAL, LIVE MERMAIDS!
11-16

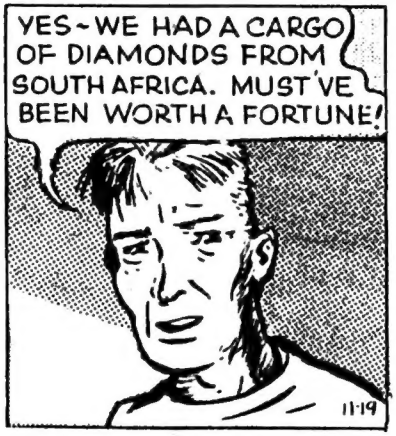
YOU REALLY THINK YOU SAW MERMAIDS?
THINK IT? I KNOW IT!

"THEY WERE BEAUTIFUL-- THE CAPTAIN AND THE WHOLE CREW COULDN'T WAIT TO GET CLOSER- TO GET A BETTER LOOK--"

"SUDDENLY-- BEFORE WE KNEW IT- THE SHIP CRACKED UP ON THE ROCKS--"

"I CRAWLED ONTO THE RAFT- -NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS, ALONE- IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN."
11-17

IT'S HORRIBLE. MAYBE ALL MY MATES ARE LOST. AND ALL THE DIAMONDS, TOO!
DIAMONDS?


YES ~ WE HAD A CARGO OF DIAMONDS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. MUST'VE BEEN WORTH A FORTUNE!
11-19

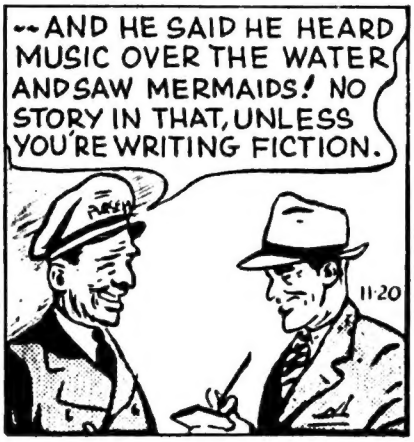
"TATTOO" TED SAYS HIS SHIP WAS WRECKED -- CARRYING DIAMONDS.
BOSH! WE GOT NO S O S, DID WE? HE'S BALMY?

MUSIC ON THE WATER -- MERMAIDS ~ DIAMONDS! IT'S WEIRD
THE SEA WILL DO STRANGE THINGS TO A MAN'S MIND.

LAND! GOOD OLD U.S! AND AM I GLAD TO GET BACK!
CHECK!

TATTOO'TED IS CARRIED ASHORE.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
EXPOSURE -- HE'S A SHIP-WRECK VICTIM.

LOOK, MAYBE A STORY!
I'LL CHECK WITH THE PURSER -- HE'S A GOOD SOURCE.


-- AND HE SAID HE HEARD MUSIC OVER THE WATER AND SAW MERMAIDS! NO STORY IN THAT, UNLESS YOU'RE WRITING FICTION.
PURSER
11-20

MERMAIDS SIGHTED
SAILOR SAYS SIREN SONG OF SLINKY SYLPHS SHATTERED SHIP.
Don't rush, boys, but there are mermaids at Melo Straits!

OH, THEY'RE MAKING FUN OF "TATTOO" TED. THAT'S UNKIND.
STILL IT IS PRETTY FUNNY.

TWO OTHER READERS DON'T THINK THE "FUNNY" STORY IS VERY FUNNY.
LOOK!
THIS IS TERRIBLE
V
VICTORY LOAN

LUCKY THEY THINK "TATTOO" TED'S WACKY. NOBODY'LL BELIEVE HIS STORY, QUEENIE.
I'M NOT SO SURE. SUPPOSE SOMEBODY DOES BELIEVE IT?

HE'S IN A HOSPITAL. DOCTORS WILL EXAMINE HIM. THEY'LL FIND HIM SANE!
THAT'LL REALLY RUIN US!
V VICTORY LOAN

WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE, PLATINUM! GET ME A NURSE'S COSTUME.

SHORTLY AFTERWARD.
LOTS OF NEW NURSES HERE ALL THE TIME. GETTING IN SHOULD BE A CINCH.
HOSPITAL NURSES' QUARTERS
11-22
WHAT'S QUEENIE UP TO?

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
FINE, BUT THEY WON'T LET ME OUT. THINK I'M GOOFY.

GO TO SLEEP, SAILOR. YOU'LL BE O.K.
WE'LL COME SEE YOU AGAIN. GOODBYE.

V VICTORY LOAN
11-23

THIS IS THE CHAP'S ROOM.
VERY STRANGE CASE. HE THINKS HE SAW MERMAIDS.
V VICTORY LOAN

AH, NURSE, HOW'S YOUR PATIENT?
ER-FINE, DOCTOR-I WAS JUST-UH-TAKING HIS TEMPERATURE.

YOU MAY GO, NURSE. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW, IF WE NEED YOU.

IS "TATTOO"TED REALLY HAYWIRE?
HM.
HMM.
HMMM-
11-24
CONT'D.

MR. WALKER, WE'VE FOUND THAT SAILOR TO BE PERFECTLY SANE.
MAYBE HE DID SEE MER-MAIDS!
I MUST TALK TO HIM-NOW.

GONE!

YOU SAY A NURSE WHEELED HIM OUT. EVER SEE THAT NURSE BEFORE?
WHY-- UH-NO. MUST BE A NEW NURSE.

TOO LATE!
11-26

DO WE RUB HIM OUT, QUEENIE?
NO-PUT HIM IN THE WIND-MILL-HE GOES WITH US.

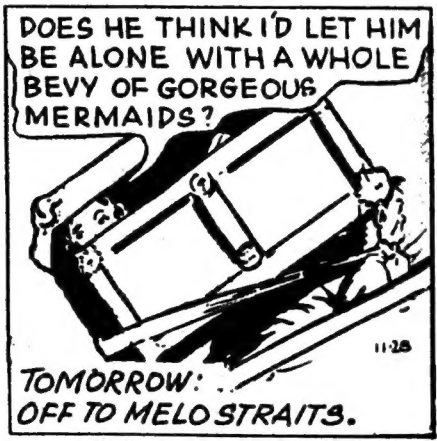
I HATE TO LEAVE THIS SNAZZY PENTHOUSE.
POO-AFTER WE FINISH THIS JOB WE'LL BUILD ONE OUT OF DIAMONDS.
11-27

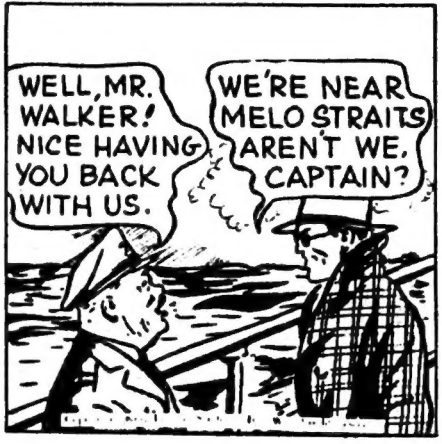
SAAAY, YOU LOOK FAMILIAR!
DON'T TRY THAT LINE ON ME. IT'S CORNY!

THAT SAILOR DID SEE MERMAIDS! NOW HE'S MISSING. THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE TO LOOK FOR A CLUE-MELO STRAITS.

FINE. WHEN DO WE START?
WE DON'T START-MIGHT BE DANGEROUS. I'M GOING ALONE, DIANA.

GOODBYE, DARLING.


DOES HE THINK I'D LET HIM BE ALONE WITH A WHOLE BEVY OF GORGEOUS MERMAIDS?
11-28
TOMORROW: OFF TO MELO STRAITS.


WELL, MR. WALKER! NICE HAVING YOU BACK WITH US.
WE'RE NEAR MELO STRAITS AREN'T WE, CAPTAIN?

NOT NEAR ENOUGH TO BE DANGEROUS, HO, HO!
LISTEN!

STRANGE MUSIC!
COULD IT BE --??

AHOY! MERMAIDS TO STARBOARD! -- WHAT AM I SAYING?
1129

SCUTTLE ME FOR A SCOW. IS THE WHOLE WALLOWING CREW GOING DAFT?

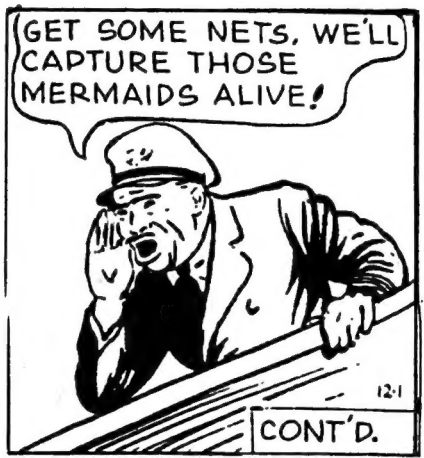
BEEN SAILING THE SEAS FOR 40 YEARS, MAN AN' BOY, AN' I AIN'T NEVER SEED A MERMAID!

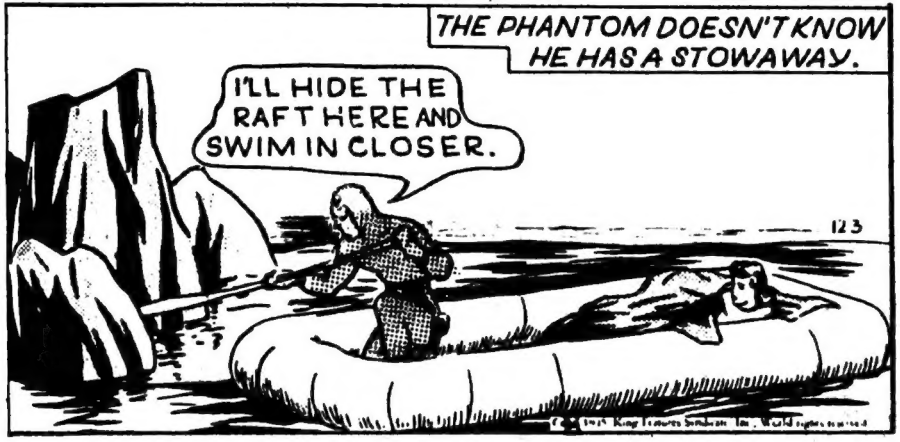
-- TILL NOW!
1130

IT'S A TRICK, CAPTAIN. DON'T TAKE THE SHIP NEARER.
I WANT A CLOSER LOOK!

GOOD - JUST WHERE I LEFT IT.

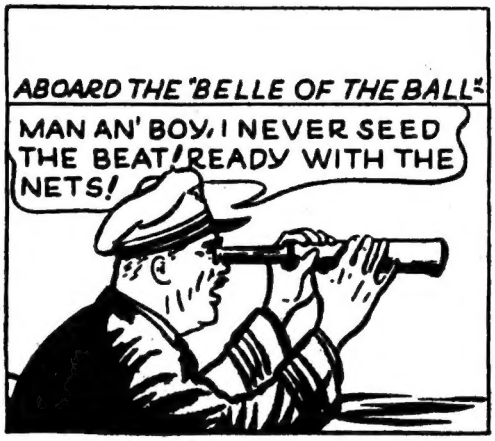
IF I COME IN FROM THE SIDE - AND THE MERMAIDS KEEP WATCHING THE SHIP - THEY WON'T SEE ME.


GET SOME NETS, WE'LL CAPTURE THOSE MERMAIDS ALIVE!
12-1
CONT'D.

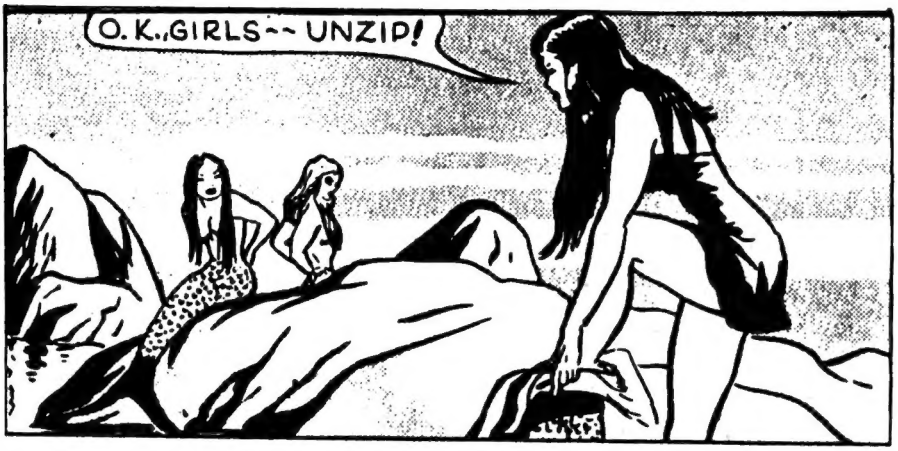

THE PHANTOM DOESN'T KNOW HE HAS A STOWAWAY.
I'LL HIDE THE RAFT HERE AND SWIM IN CLOSER.
123

I'LL BE DARNED--

THE SHIP'S HEADED THIS WAY-- ANOTHER MINUTE AND WE CAN UNZIP.


ABOARD THE "BELLE OF THE BALL."
MAN AN' BOY, I NEVER SEED THE BEAT! READY WITH THE NETS!

THERE'S ANOTHER INTENT WATCHER.


O.K., GIRLS-- UNZIP!

HURRY, GIRLS!
V
VICTORY LOAN

I'M STUCK.

AND THE MERMAIDS TAKE OFF!
READY, DIVE!
125

OF ALL THE FRAUDS! NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF BATHING BEAUTIES! BACK ON OUR COURSE!

THE STOWAWAY WATCHES, TOO.
WHAT CAN THEY BE UP TO?
12-6

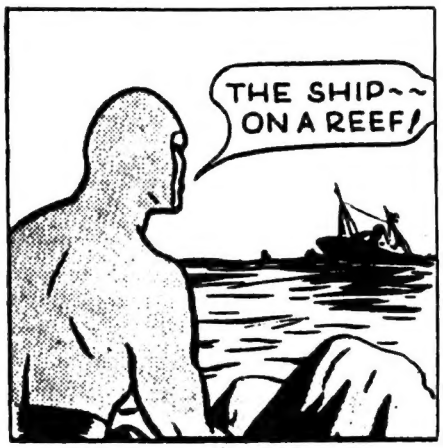
SOMETHING'S WRONG, SIR! WE MISSED THE CHANNEL! WE'RE SCRAPING BOTTOM!

V
VICTORY LOAN

CLEVER -- BUT WHAT'S THE RACKET?

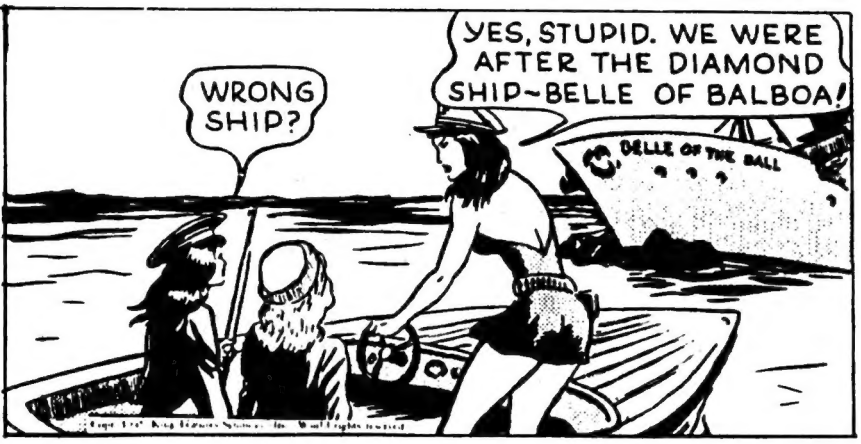
I'LL JUST LOOK AROUND AND---

AND THE "BELLE OF THE BALL" CRACKS UP ON A HIDDEN REEF!
12-7


THE SHIP-- ON A REEF!

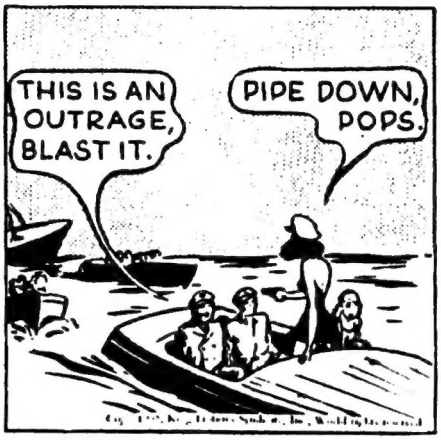
STEP ON IT- WE CAN'T LET THOSE DIAMONDS SINK.

FOOLS! IT'S THE WRONG SHIP!
12-8


WRONG SHIP?
YES, STUPID. WE WERE AFTER THE DIAMOND SHIP~BELLE OF BALBOA!
BELLE OF THE BALL

WHAT'LL WE DO?
TAKE HER, ANYWAY~SEE WHAT THEY'VE GOT.

A MOMENT LATER~~
IF YOU'RE CAPTAIN OF THIS TUB, TELL YOUR MEN TO OBEY MY ORDERS~~ THEN NOBODY'LL GET HURT.
1210


THIS IS AN OUTRAGE, BLAST IT.
PIPE DOWN, POPS.

FEMALE PIRATES! AND THEY'VE CAPTURED THE WHOLE CREW!

BUT THEY WON'T CATCH HIM~~OR ME.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, SISTER.
1211
TOMORROW~PRISON VALLEY.

HIDING, THE PHANTOM WATCHES, AS THE CAPTIVES ARE HERDED UPON THE ISLAND.

BUT HE DOESN'T SEE DIANA, TAKEN ALONG A DIFFERENT PATH.

I CAN'T HELP'EM TILL I LEARN THE LAYOUT~~ SO I'LL STAY IN HIDING.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US?
PRISON VALLEY, POPS. YOU'D BETTER LIKE IT. YOU'RE GONNA BE THERE A LONG TIME.
1212

AT MELO STRAITS, THE CAPTIVES SEE A STRANGE SIGHT.

WHY~ ISN'T THIS~
RIGHT, POPS! THIS IS THE FAMOUS FORT DIABOLO, A PIRATE STRONGHOLD 300 YEARS AGO.
12-13

SLOWLY, THE DOOR TO PRISON VALLEY RISES. WHAT FATE IS IN STORE FOR THEM?

AND HERE'S THE DOOR TO PRISON VALLEY~ OPEN IT.

NO, NO! I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KID WAITING FOR ME. I WON'T GO IN!

THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT, CHUMP! NEXT TIME, I SHOOT TO KILL!
12-14

SLOWLY, THE MEN FILE THROUGH THE GATE TO PRISON VALLEY.

THEY'RE ALL SAFE INSIDE. ALL BUT ONE.
ALL BUT ONE? WHY ISN'T THAT ONE INSIDE, TOO?

WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO THIS ONE FIRST. IT'S A DAME.
12-15

WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON THAT SHIP, SISTER?
I~I WAS A STOWAWAY.

LAMMIN' FROM THE LAW, EH? I COULD USE A BABE LIKE YOU IN MY RACKET! INTERESTED?

IF YOU REFUSE – YOU DISAPPEAR!
ER~~ BEFORE I ACCEPT THE JOB~~

YOU'RE CUTE, SISTER. YOU WANTA BE WISED UP TO THE RACKET, EH? NO HARM IN THAT. COME WITH ME.

FIRST, WE LURE THE SUCKERS IN TO SEE THE MERMAIDS! WITH~~
MUSIC! A HIDDEN AMPLIFIER!
12-17

OUR "SIREN SONG" IS HEARD FOR MILES AT SEA. THEN THE SUCKERS COME IN TO FIND OUT WHAT'S COOKIN' AND~~ BOOM!

BUT WHEN A SHIP'S WRECKED, DOESN'T IT SEND AN S.O.S?
IT TRIES~BUT OUR TRANSMITTER JAMS IT RIGHT OFF THE AIR.

IS THERE NO CLEAR CHANNEL THROUGH MELO STRAITS?
THERE IS~~ BUT WE REARRANGED THE BUOYS. WE DON'T MISS A BET.
MELO STRAIT

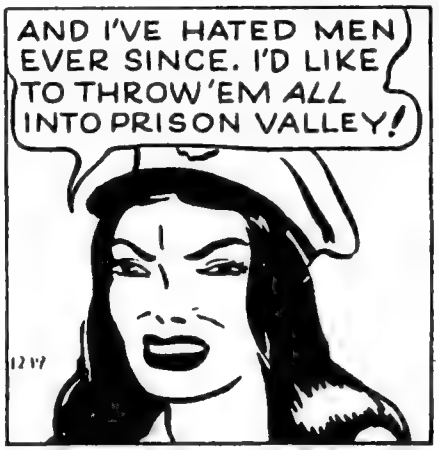
IT'S A SWEET SETUP~~ AND FOOL-PROOF.
ARE THERE ANY~ MEN~ IN YOUR GANG?

MEN? NO! I HATE MEN!
12-18

YOU HATE MEN? WHY?
BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL RATS!

"I WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH A MAN ONCE"~~
OH, DARLING! WHAT A LOVELY SURPRISE!
???

~~"BUT HE DID ME WRONG."
KEEP YOUR MITTS OFF THAT. IT'S NOT FOR YOU. YOU AND I ARE THROUGH!


AND I'VE HATED MEN EVER SINCE. I'D LIKE TO THROW 'EM ALL INTO PRISON VALLEY!
12-17

QUEENIE, LEADER OF THE "MERMAIDS."
I'M A TOUGH BABY, BUT I LIKE NICE THINGS.

I MAY BE A PIRATE, BUT CAPT. KIDD NEVER LOOKED THIS GOOD, EH?

SEE, I GOT DIAMONDS. AN' I DIDN'T HAVE TO BEG ANY MAN FOR 'EM!
1220

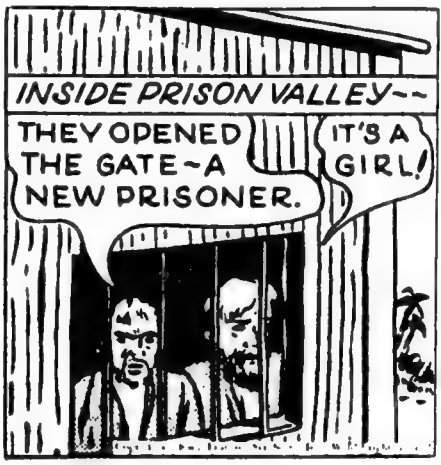
AND YOU CAN HAVE CLASSY SPARKLERS LIKE THIS, TOO, SISTER-- WHEN YOU JOIN UP WITH ME!

WELL WADDA YOU SAY? ARE YOU WITH US?
I'M ON A SPOT. I'D HOPED HE MIGHT FIND ME BEFORE THIS!

IT'S NO USE-- I C-CAN'T BE A PIRATE.

THEN IT'S PRISON VALLEY FOR YOU, SISTER. AND YOU'LL BE SORRY!

SLOWLY THE GREAT GATE CLOSES--
1221


INSIDE PRISON VALLEY--
THEY OPENED THE GATE-A NEW PRISONER.
IT'S A GIRL!

MISS DIANA- WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
I WAS A STOWAWAY- ON YOUR SHIP-THEN THEY CAUGHT ME.

PRISON VALLEY! THIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO BAD.
WE'RE WALLED UP IN THIS PLACE- FOREVER!
1222

TATTOO TED!
YOU THOUGHT I WAS BALMY, EH! NOW YOU KNOW!

BUT CAPTAIN, SURELY THERE IS SOME WAY OUT.
THINK SO? SOME OF THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN HERE THREE YEARS.

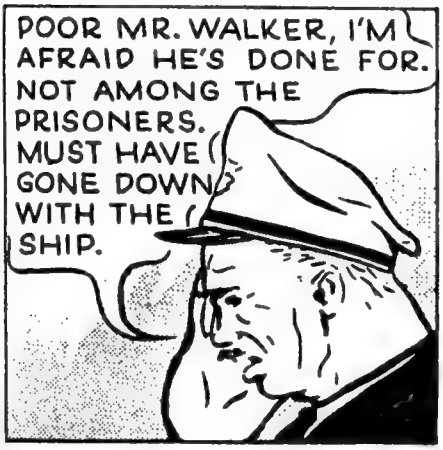
WE RAISE FOOD TO EAT~ THERE'S WATER TO DRINK~ SHACKS FOR SHELTER. BUT NO WAY OUT!

SEE THIS LAD~HE TRIED TO SCALE THE CLIFF~~ BROKE HIS LEG.

AND THIS ONE~TRIED TO RUSH THE GATE. LUCKY THE BULLET ONLY CREASED HIM.
12-24

WHAT A FOOL I AM. WRECKED MY SHIP. NEVER SEE THE WIFE AN' KIDS AGAIN.
CHEER UP, CAPTAIN. MAYBE *HE* WILL HELP US OUT.

HE? WHO?
WHY~ER~~"MR. WALKER".


POOR MR. WALKER, I'M AFRAID HE'S DONE FOR. NOT AMONG THE PRISONERS. MUST HAVE GONE DOWN WITH THE SHIP.

BUT "MR. WALKER" ISN'T QUITE DONE FOR!
12-25

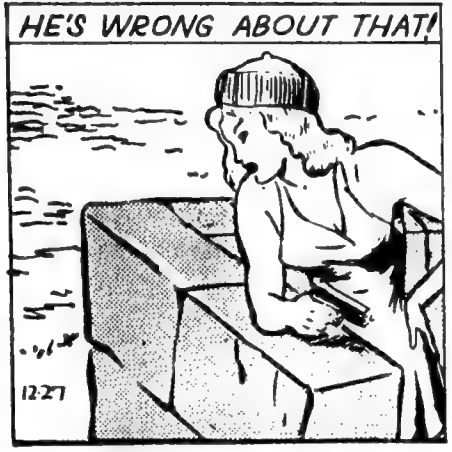
NO ONE IN SIGHT.

SO THIS IS HOW THEY MADE MUSIC!

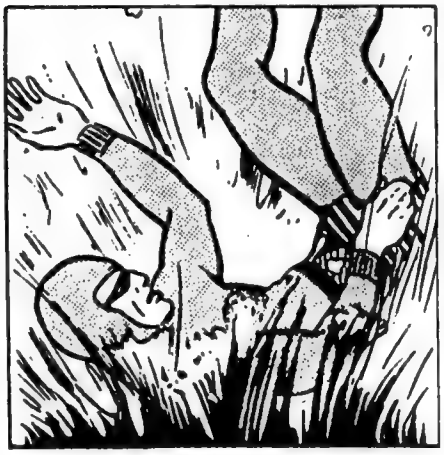
I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THAT GATE.

A MAN!
12-26

DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN SPOTTED.

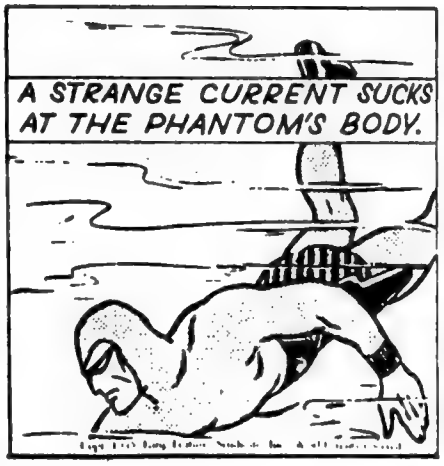

HE'S WRONG ABOUT THAT!
12-27

WHAT A STRANGE~~!! WHO IS HE?



GRAY SUIT~MASK~~ WHAT WAS HIS RACKET, I WONDER?
12-28

BUT PERHAPS SHE'LL NEVER LEARN THE ANSWER AS A WHIRLPOOL DRAGS THE LIMP BODY DOWN~DOWN~DOWN~~


A STRANGE CURRENT SUCKS AT THE PHANTOM'S BODY.

I'M THIRSTY.

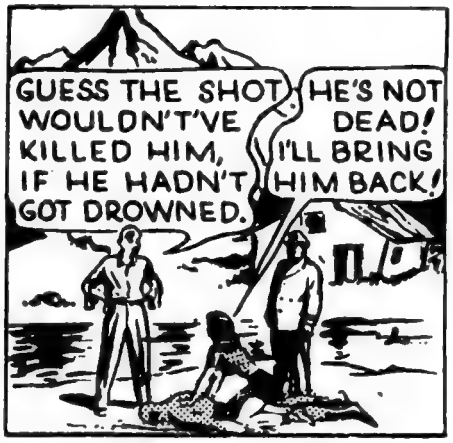
DON'T DRINK THAT~~ IT'S SALT WATER.

LOOK! A BODY~~
12-29

HURRY! HELP ME GET HIM OUT.
BLAST ME~~~

IS HE~~ IS HE~?
DEAD?

'PEARS TO ME LIKE HE'S DEAD *TWO* WAYS~~ SHOT AND DROWNED.
12-51


GUESS THE SHOT WOULDN'T'VE KILLED HIM, IF HE HADN'T GOT DROWNED.
HE'S NOT DEAD! I'LL BRING HIM BACK!

MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP.
NO.

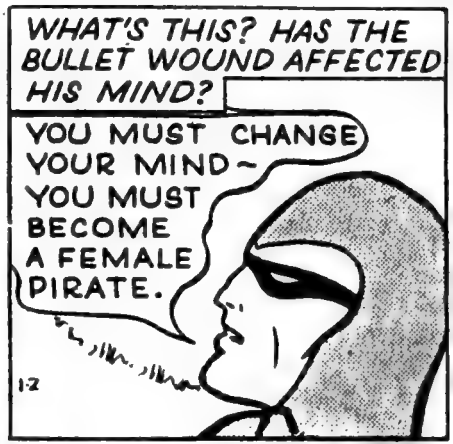
HE'S BREATHING!
1-1

I MUST BE DEAD~~ I SEE AN ANGEL.

SOON THE PHANTOM'S RUGGED STRENGTH ASSERTS ITSELF~~
HOW'D I GET HERE?
YOU WERE WASHED IN.

THERE'S A SALT WATER STREAM. IT SWEEPS UNDER THE CLIFF FROM THE SEA. IT SUCKED YOU INTO PRISON VALLEY.

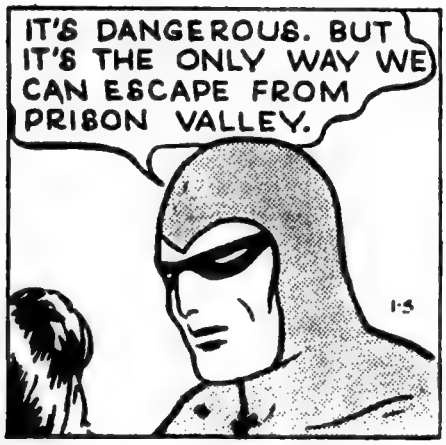
SO THE LADY PIRATES OFFERED YOU A JOB, EH?
YES~ OF COURSE, I REFUSED.


WHAT'S THIS? HAS THE BULLET WOUND AFFECTED HIS MIND?
YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR MIND~ YOU MUST BECOME A FEMALE PIRATE.
1-2

ME BE A PIRATE? YOU'RE JOKING.
NO, I'M SERIOUS.

DARLING, LIE DOWN~~ REST. YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A DAY OR SO.

I'M OK. I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. I WANT YOU TO JOIN THESE FEMALE PIRATES.


IT'S DANGEROUS. BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN ESCAPE FROM PRISON VALLEY.

I'LL JOIN THE GANG~ BUT *HOW?*
WAIT'LL I GET THIS ON, SO I WON'T BE CONSPICUOUS.

THERE'S A GUARD UP THERE. CALL TO HER. TELL HER YOU MUST SEE THE QUEEN.

THEN WHEN YOU GET TO SEE THE QUEEN, TELL HER YOU HATE ALL MEN, TOO~ AND YOU CAN PROVE IT.

GOOD LUCK, DARLING.
I HATE ALL MEN.

GUARD, HELLOOO! HELLO UP THERE!

THE DAME IN PRISON VALLEY WANTS OUT
HMM, I WONDER. MAY BE A TRICK.

WELL, SISTER, WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
I~I DON'T LIKE PRISON VALLEY.

SO YOU DON'T LIKE PRISON VALLEY? AIN'T THAT JUST TOO BAD. THROW HER BACK IN, GIRLS.

WAIT--I WANT TO JOIN YOUR GANG. I HATE MEN, TOO!
EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU'VE CHANGED SO SUDDENLY?

SEE THAT MAN DOWN THERE? LEND ME YOUR GUN. I'LL PROVE WHAT I SAY!

IT'S THE PHANTOM!
17

THE STRANGER!
HE'S BEEN SHOT!

DRAG ME INTO THE SHACK.

ARE YOU HURT BADLY.?
NOT HURT AT ALL.

NOT HURT? BUT THE SHOT?
I SUPPLIED THE PISTOL AND THE-BLANK!
18

SOME SHOOTING-- BUT WHY? WHY KILL HIM?
HE--ER TRIED TO KISS ME.

KILL A MAN BECAUSE HE TRIED TO KISS YOU? YOU ARE A COLD-BLOODED WITCH!

WE CAN USE YOU. COME ON.

BUT--DON'T SHOOT ANY MORE MEN EXCEPT ON MY ORDERS.
YES, MA'AM.
19

YOU SHOULD MAKE AN O.K. MERMAID···TRY THIS FOR SIZE.

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM QUEENIE SOMEHOW··· TO HELP HIM.

FINE. NOW SLIP INTO THIS.

BUT IN THIS THING··· I CAN'T EVEN WALK!
110

I FEEL AS IF I WERE GOING TO BE IN A SACK RACE.

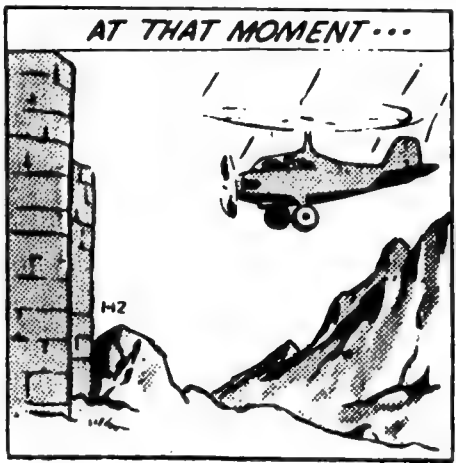
NO! NO! NO!

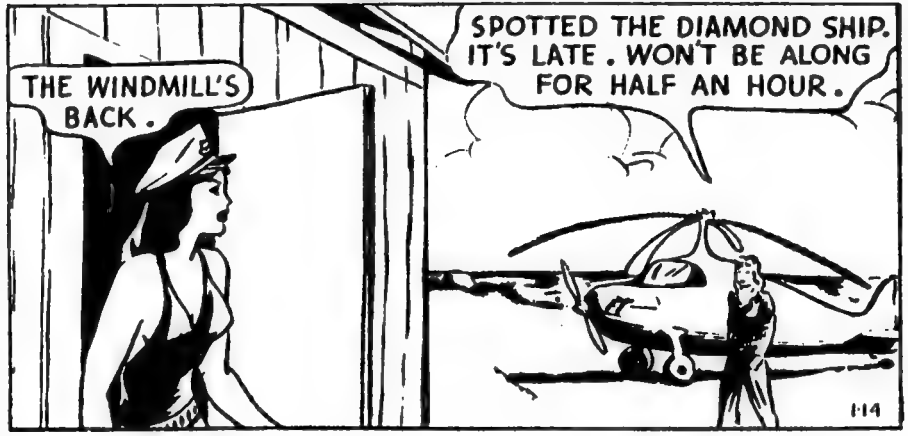
NOT LIKE THAT! A MERMAID DOESN'T SIT LIKE THAT!
111

SHOW HER HOW.

LIKE THIS.
I SEE·· LIKE THIS?

THAT'S FINE. SEE IF THIS FITS.


AT THAT MOMENT···
112


THE WINDMILL'S BACK.
SPOTTED THE DIAMOND SHIP. IT'S LATE. WON'T BE ALONG FOR HALF AN HOUR.
1-14

OK. TAKE 'EM OFF. WON'T NEED MERMAIDS FOR HALF AN HOUR

SHORTLY AFTERWARD
AH-- JUST WHAT I NEED.

WELL ?

WHAT KIND OF DOUBLE-CROSS IS THIS ?

QUEENIE MOVES LIKE LIGHTNING.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CHOKE YOU NOW-- OR HANG YOU LATER.
URG-
1-15

W-WAIT ! I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A LARIAT--AND PRACTICE LASSOING---

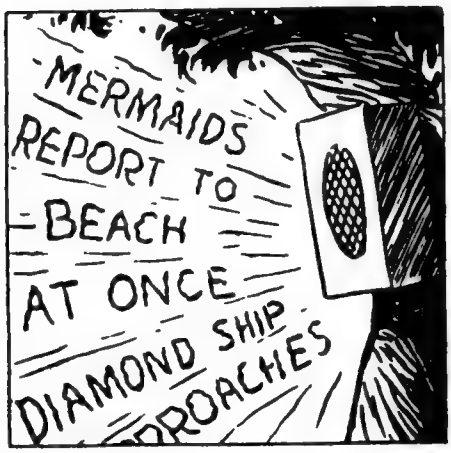
LIKE-LIKE THIS---
SAY, THAT LASSO STUFF COULD COME IN HANDY.

SHAKE, SISTER. SORRY I DOUBTED YOU.
1-16

WHEN WE HAVE TIME, MAYBE YOU CAN TEACH ME.
WHEW--!

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET UP HERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN.

I'LL LOWER THE OTHER END TO HIM AND--WHA---
CALLING ALL MERMAIDS

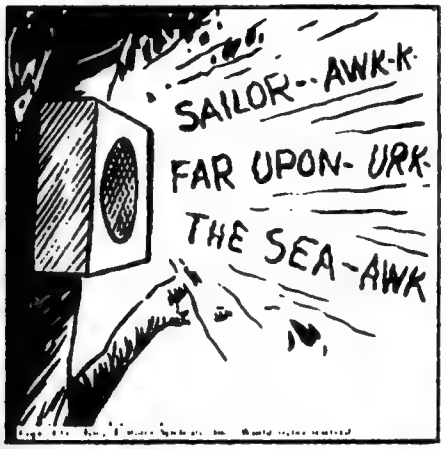

MERMAIDS REPORT TO BEACH AT ONCE
DIAMOND SHIP

I'VE GOT TO BE THERE--OR QUEENIE WILL SMELL A RAT.
MERMAIDS REPORT AT ONCE

NO TIME TO SIGNAL HIM--I JUST PRAY HE SEES IT.

WELL, SISTER, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE--TO LURE A SHIP TO ITS DOOM!

HERE, PLATINUM--TEST THE AMPLIFIER.


SAILOR--AWK-K-
FAR UPON-URK-
THE SEA-AWK

THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
MY VOICE--I'D'S HOARSE. GUESS I'B GOT A CODE.

OH, FINE! SAY, SISTER, CAN YOU SING?
ME?
CONT'D.

I CAN TRY-- BUT I DON'T KNOW THE SONG.
OK, PLATINUM-- TEACH HER THE WORDS.

SAILOR ♪ FAR ACROSS THE SEA COME AND GIVE ♪ YOUR LOVE TO ME, IF YOU---

IT'S NO USE-- I CAN'T REMEMBER THE WORDS.
ALL RIGHT THEN-- SING SOMETHING YOU DO KNOW.

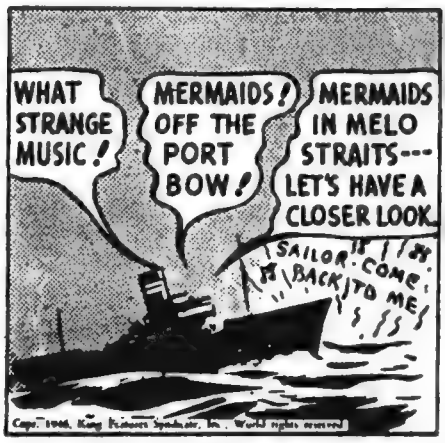
I'LL BE GLAD ♪ WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, ♪ YOU RASCAL, YOU!
1-21

GLAD WHEN YOU'RE DEAD, ♪ RASCAL YOU-- ZOOT-DE-ROO!

NO! NO! NO! GOT ANY OTHER SONGS?

WELL--ER--HOW ABOUT "LOVER COME BACK TO ME?"
SWELL-- ONLY MAKE IT "SAILOR COME BACK TO ME." WIGS ON, EVERYBODY!

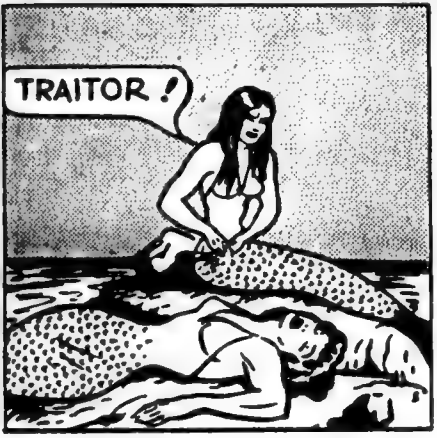
HOW AWFUL--TO THINK THAT I'VE GOT TO HELP WRECK A SHIP!
1-22


WHAT STRANGE MUSIC!
MERMAIDS! OFF THE PORT BOW!
MERMAIDS IN MELO STRAITS--- LET'S HAVE A CLOSER LOOK.
SAILOR COME BACK TO ME!

HERE THEY COME. ANOTHER MOMENT AND THEY'LL BREAK UP ON THE REEF.

NO, NO! GO BACK SHIP! IT'S A TRICK! YOU'LL BE WRECKED!
1-23

YOU--!


TRAITOR!

SHE'S RUINED EVERY-THING--WE'VE GOTTA LAM OUTA HERE.

PLATINUM, GO GET THE PLANES READY. AND SEAL THE PRISON VALLEY GATE---

WHILE I TAKE CARE OF MISS SNITCHER, HERE.
1-24

THIS IS MORE TROUBLE THAN SHOOTING--BUT AT LEAST SHE'LL SUFFER.

WHAT HAP--- OH!
SO, YOU'VE COME TO? THAT'S EVEN BETTER.

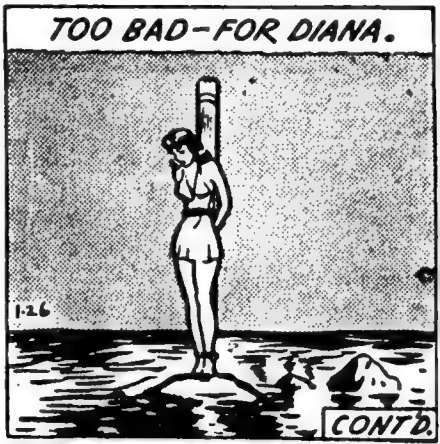
YOU CAN'T SEE IT-- BUT JUST ABOVE YOUR HEAD THERE'S A RING AROUND THIS POST.

THAT RING'S THE HIGH TIDE MARK. SO LONG, RAT!
1-25

GOOD THING WE REVERSED MOTORS. EVIDENTLY IT WAS A TRICK. THE MERMAIDS ARE ONLY GIRLS IN BATHING SUITS.

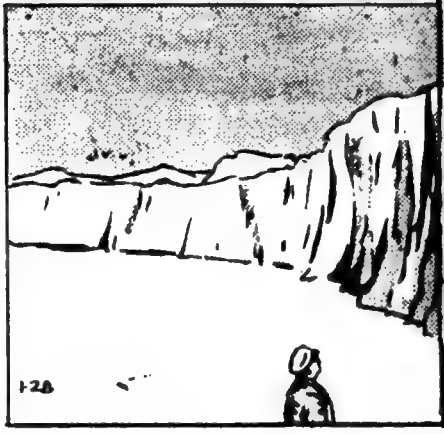
SHALL I TAKE A SMALL BOAT AND INVESTI-GATE, SIR?
HMMM.

NO. WE'RE LATE, OUR CARGO'S VALUABLE. WE'LL MOVE ON AND RADIO THE COAST GUARD WHAT HAPPENED.


TOO BAD-FOR DIANA.
1-26
CONT'D.

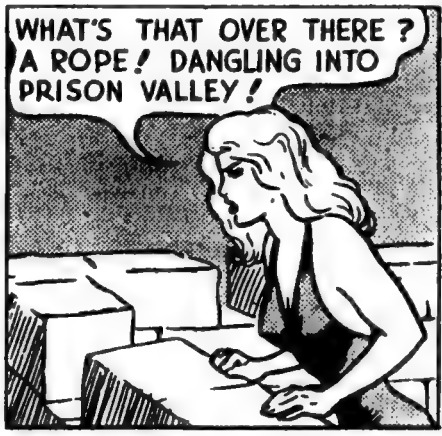
IT'S HERE-- A ROPE!
IT IS ? FUNNY, DIANA DIDN'T SIGNAL.

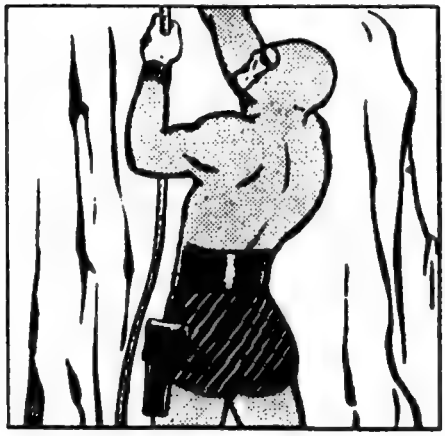
BLAST IT-- IT'S TOO SHORT!
MAYBE NOT. ROUND UP SOME MEN.


1-28

MADE IT!

RED IS ON GUARD IN THE TOWER ABOVE PRISON VALLEY
FUNNY ABOUT THAT GUY I SHOT. HE SORT OF HAUNTS ME.


WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE ? A ROPE! DANGLING INTO PRISON VALLEY!

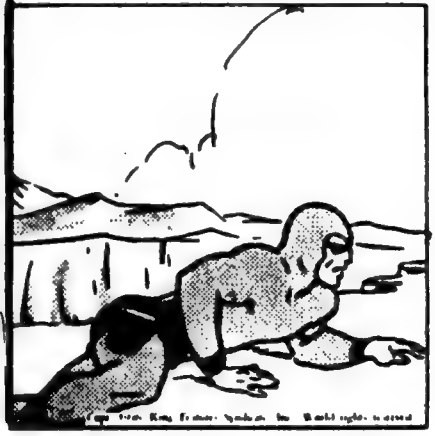


CAN'T SEE WHO'S CLIMBING-- I'LL JUST CUT THIS ROPE!
1-29

ALMOST---

THERE!

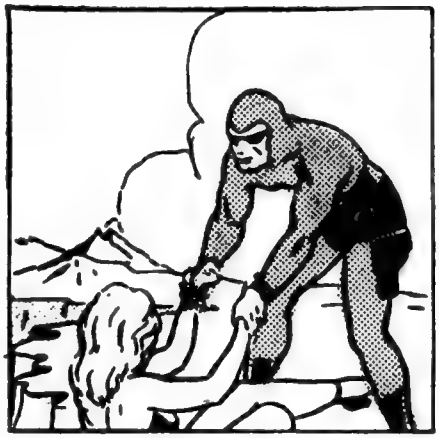
NO! IT CAN'T BE!
1-30



NO, STAY BACK--
YOU'RE DEAD!

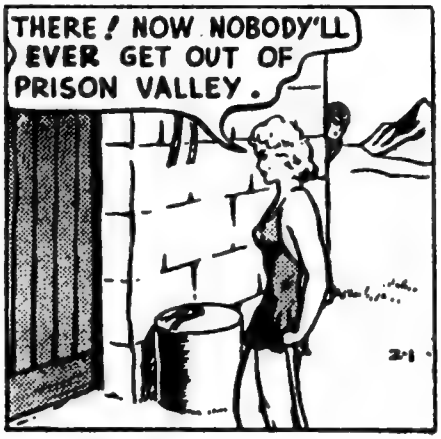
EEEEEEE!

WHOA, RED!



HMM—FAINTED. THIS'LL
HOLD HER.

MEANWHILE, PLATINUM
GOES TO WORK.
MY ORDERS WERE TO SEAL THE
PRISON VALLEY GATE.


THERE! NOW NOBODY'LL
EVER GET OUT OF
PRISON VALLEY.

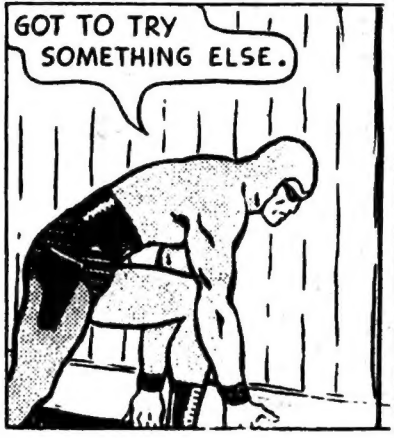
GLURG.

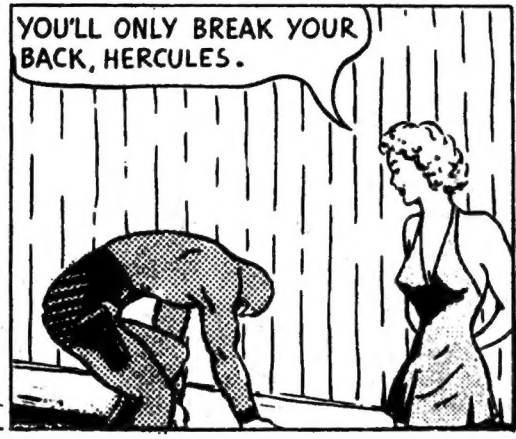
QUIET--OR I'LL HAVE TO
GAG YOU.

GOT TO CHOP THIS DOWN--
AND GET THOSE MEN OUT!

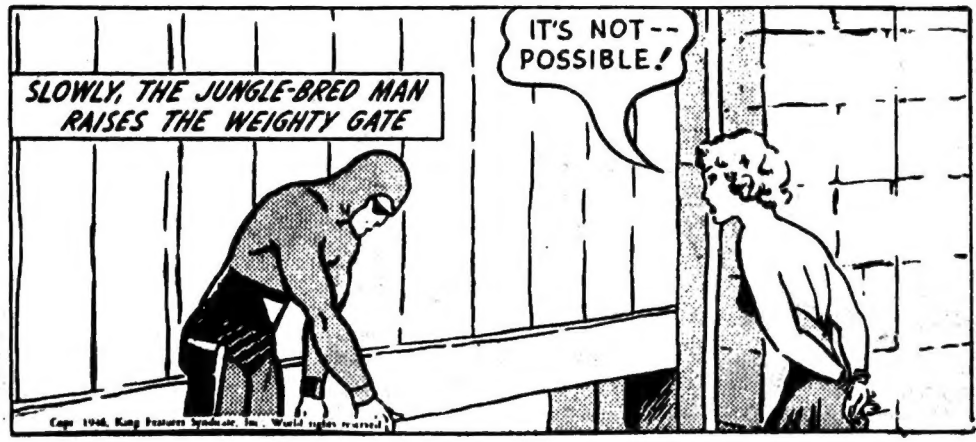
YOU'LL NEVER GET IT OPEN-
--NEVER!
CONT'D.

THAT'S NO GOOD.


GOT TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.


YOU'LL ONLY BREAK YOUR BACK, HERCULES.

MEANWHILE--THE TIDE RISES RAPIDLY---
24


SLOWLY, THE JUNGLE-BRED MAN RAISES THE WEIGHTY GATE
IT'S NOT-- POSSIBLE!

BLAST ME, IF YOU AINT A HUMAN DERRICK!
COME ON OUT.

FREEDOM AT LAST! THE MEN CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR EYES!
25

WITH THE LAST MAN OUT, PRISON VALLEY'S SEALED AGAIN

WHAT A DULL JOB-- GUARDING THE ARMORY. NOBODY'S AROUND HERE TO STEAL OUR GUNS.

??

HERE--BUT BE CAREFUL HOW YOU USE THEM.
26

THE DIAMOND SHIP'S GOING AWAY.

THAT SHIP TRIED TO RADIO THE COAST GUARD, BUT I JAMMED IT. NO MESSAGE GOT TO THE COAST GUARD.

THEN THERE'S NOT AS MUCH HURRY AS THERE WAS. WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME--- PICK UP OUR LOOT--- MAKE A CLEAN GETAWAY.

IN FACT, THERE'S NO HURRY AT ALL!
27

FIRST THING IS TO MOVE MY OWN PRIVATE COLLECTION OF DIAMONDS FROM THE TREASURE ROOM TO THE PLANE!

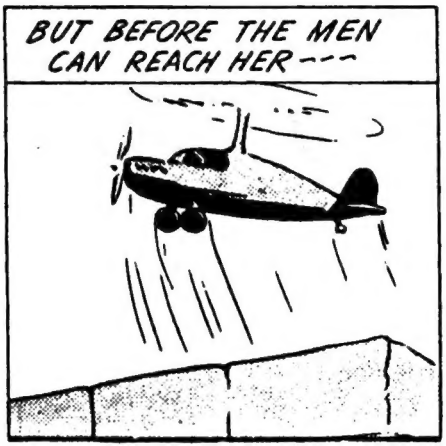
AT THE DOOR OF THE TREASURE ROOM...
??

MY DIAMONDS--- ARE THEY---?

EMPTY!! OH!
2-8

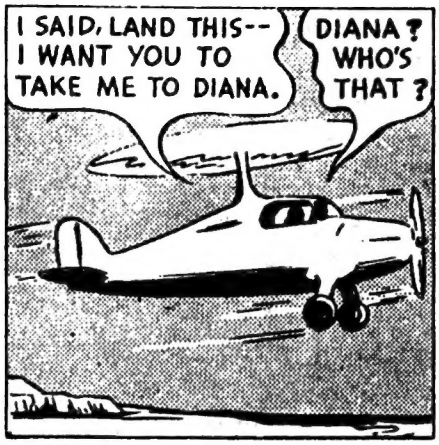
MASKED MAN OVERPOWERED ME! FREED THE PRISONERS—
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE--FAST!

THERE SHE IS! THE LEADER! TAKE HER ALIVE!


BUT BEFORE THE MEN CAN REACH HER---

CONGRATULATIONS TO ME! I MADE A CLEAN GETAWAY!
29
CONT'D.

BETTER TAKE THIS CRATE DOWN AGAIN
WHAT ??


I SAID, LAND THIS-- I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME TO DIANA.
DIANA ? WHO'S THAT ?

THE RISING TIDE IS UNRELENTING.

2-11

WHERE'S DIANA, THE NEW GIRL WHO JOINED YOUR GANG?
OH--YOU MEAN THE TRAITOR!

SHE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW-- I HOPE.

IF YOU'VE HARMED HER, I'LL--
WAIT. MAYBE YOU CAN SAVE HER. I'LL MAKE A BARGAIN.

SHE'S IN THE WATER. IF I FLY LOW ENOUGH FOR YOU TO DIVE AFTER HER, WILL YOU LET ME GO?
IT'S A DEAL.
2-12

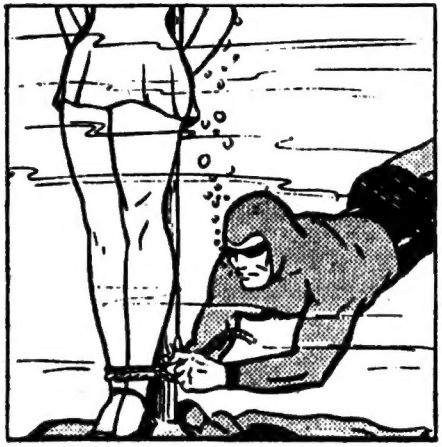
DOWN THERE-- SEE HER? BY THE POST.

GO LOWER.
GOOD-BYE, MISTER MYSTERY.

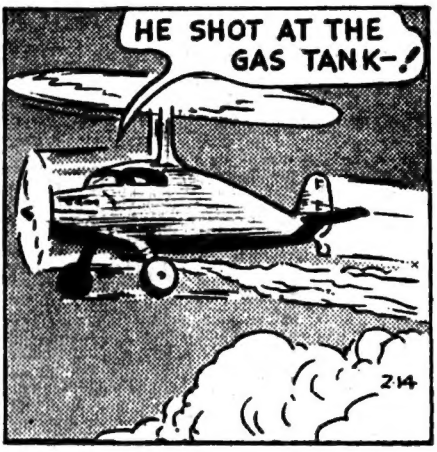
HE AIMS AT THE GAS TANK—

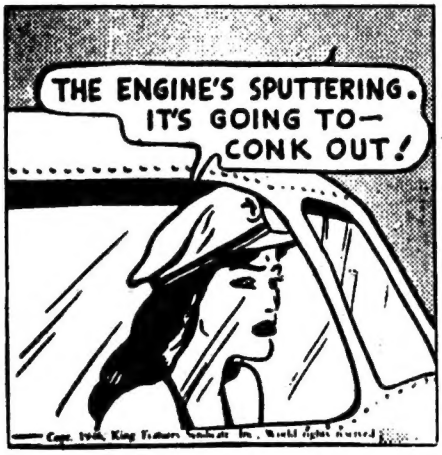
THEN PLUNGES INTO THE SEA—
2-13

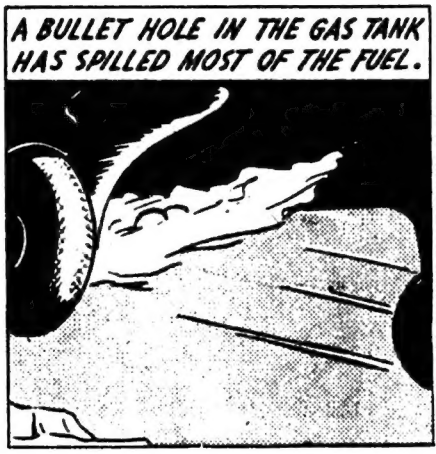
HAVE TO HURRY! DIANA'S ALMOST UNDER WATER!



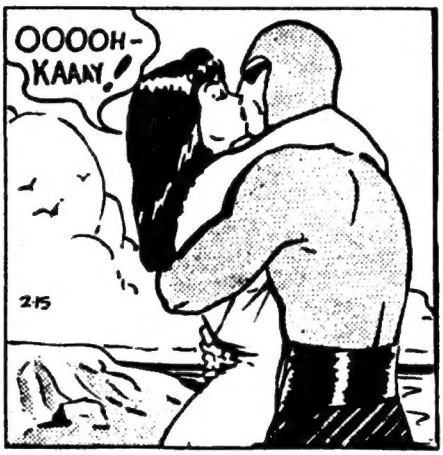
DARLING-GLUB! DID SHE-GET AWAY?
SAVE YOUR BREATH-UNTIL WE GET ASHORE.


HE SHOT AT THE GAS TANK-!
2-14


THE ENGINE'S SPUTTERING. IT'S GOING TO-CONK OUT!

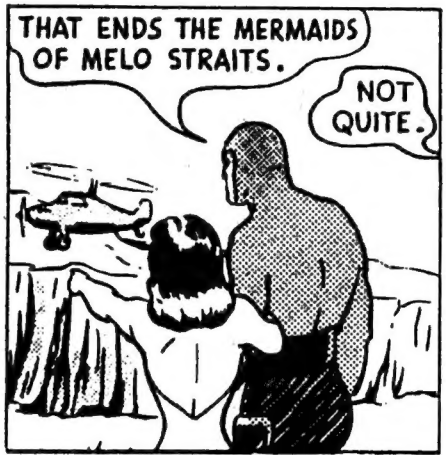

A BULLET HOLE IN THE GAS TANK HAS SPILLED MOST OF THE FUEL.

ARE YOU OK, DARLING?


OOOOH-KAAAY!
2-15

WELL, WE'VE GOT ALL THE LADY PIRATES HOG-TIED-- EXCEPT QUEENIE, THE LEADER.

BUT IRONICALLY, QUEENIE, THE LEADER, HAS FLOWN HERSELF RIGHT INTO THE SEALED-UP PRISON VALLEY!


THAT ENDS THE MERMAIDS OF MELO STRAITS.
NOT QUITE.

THERE'S STILL ONE OF US LEFT-- WOO, WOO!
2-16
NEXT WEEK--"PRINCESS VALERIE"